

## First Reading

Titus 3.4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2. 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Contact Details

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## A Warm Welcome to Bentham Parish Church St John the Baptist

24th December & 29th December  
2024

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Morning 10.30 Holy Communion  
Canon Peter Greenwood



Sun 29th Dec - 9am Holy Communion CW (said)

Sun 29th Dec - 10.30 Something Different,  
Christmas presents—Show & Tell. If you wish, please  
bring a Christmas present that you might like to say  
something about.

## Advance notices

Sun 5th Jan - Epiphany Party Jacob's Join  
Lunch after church.

Wed 8th Jan - Bowland View Praise with  
St Boniface's. All welcome

Wed 8th Jan - 7.00-8.30 Bell Ringing practice at  
St John's

Sun 19th Jan - 3pm CTiB Unity Service at St John's

Sun 19th Jan - 3pm Farewell Service for Archdea-  
con Jonathan Gough at Ripon Cathedral. See notice  
in the church porch.

Tues 28th Jan - 7.30 PCC Meeting in church.

## We pray for those who have asked for our Prayers

Rev'd Brian Underwood,  
Bryan Thwaite, Barbara Mason,  
Kay and Frank Piper, Michelle Hunter,  
Sarah Wilson, David Davis, Anne Taylor,  
Hazel Schofield, Esther Bateson and any others that we  
know who are struggling at this time. May they know  
the comfort of His loving arms around them.



**We ask for comfort for** - all those who mourn the  
death of a loved one. May she rest in Peace and Rise in  
Glory.

## Collect for Christmas Eve

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the  
light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Post Communion

God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

### First Reading

#### Hebrews 1.1-12

##### God Has Spoken by His Son

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

##### The Son Is Superior to Angels

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
'You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you?'  
Or again,  
'I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son?'  
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world,  
he says,  
'Let all God's angels worship him.'  
Of the angels he says,  
'He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.'  
But of the Son he says,  
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of  
your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'  
And,  
'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.'

### Gospel Reading

#### John 1: 1-14

##### The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### Collect for Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at  
heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen**

### Post Communion

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**